



Phase 1 Reopening Guidance for Pools at Gyms in Response to COVID-19 **May 11, 2020**

Working together, Montanans have succeeded in limiting the person-to-person spread and impacts of COVID-19. This has presented an opportunity to begin a phased reopening of businesses that were previously required to be closed. Licensed pools/spas at gyms are allowed to reopen with the following **requirements** for Phase One beginning **Friday, May 15, 2020**:

1. **Prior to reopening, test and maintain water chemistry** within acceptable parameters for safe use. The CDC has indicated that properly maintained pool water inactivates the virus. If you cannot maintain the pool/spa within acceptable limits, you must keep it closed.
2. **Post signage** identifying restrictions where members can easily see it.
 - a. Use the following, or similar, wording on the signs: “Members with fever, shortness of breath, a cough, or other COVID-19 symptoms must refrain from using the facility.”
 - b. Position signs on locker room doors with wording along the lines of, “Observe social distancing while using this facility. No loitering in common areas.”
3. **Operate the pool at half its usual capacity** of bathers.
 - a. Have a front desk/gate attendant track occupancy for each pool/spa, incoming and outgoing, to ensure maximum occupancy does not exceed 50% of normal capacity.
 - b. Allow only registered members to use the pool. Do not issue day passes or allow walk-ins.
4. **Monitor locker rooms** to ensure they are not becoming crowded and patrons are observing physical distancing.
5. **Maintain physical distancing** of at least 6 feet between unassociated members in the pool.
 - a. Do not allow congregating in waiting areas. Provide ways to ensure that patrons can stay at least 6 feet apart in any line.
 - b. Allow groups of no more than 10 (family groups and unrelated individuals must maintain 6-foot separation);
 - c. Space deck tables and chairs to facilitate 6-foot spacing;
 - d. Where possible, use buoys and floating pool ropes to mark off lanes or areas of pool for separation of large swimming areas;
 - e. Where possible, mark stairs and walkways with directional arrows to keep in/out traffic separated.

- f. **Hold swim classes and lessons using** physical distancing. Youth activities can have groups of no more than 10 if circumstances do not readily allow for physical distancing.
- g. Use only equipment that can be easily cleaned and disinfected between users.

Lewis and Clark Public Health has the following **additional guidance** to help protect staff and guests from disease.

1. **Develop a written plan** to manage Phase One operations. Be sure to address any issues unique to your operations and location.
2. **Assess the health** of all employees at the beginning of each shift. Send home anyone with respiratory symptoms.
3. **Implement engineering controls** as appropriate for your business. These might include installing physical barriers, such as clear-plastic sneeze guards, between staff and members.
4. **Support respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene** for employees and members:
 - a. Strongly **encourage the use of cloth face masks** that fully cover the mouth and nose for employees and members.
 - a. Provide tissues and no-touch disposal receptacles throughout the facility.
 - b. Provide hand-washing facilities with soap and water and single-use towels. If soap and water are not readily available, provide an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
 - c. Place hand sanitizers in several locations to encourage hand hygiene.
5. **Routinely clean and sanitize** all surfaces touched by employees and guests. Also clean frequently touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, handrails, and light switches.
 - d. Use the cleaning agents that you usually use in these areas, and follow the directions on the labels.
 - e. A list of sanitizers effective for COVID-19 is located on the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2> Be sure to **strictly follow specified contact times and mix rates**.

If you have questions or need technical assistance, please call Lewis and Clark Public Health at 457-8900. Thank you for protecting our community from COVID-19.

If you suspect Coronavirus, contact your medical provider.

For a link to this document and other local information: www.lccountymt.gov/covid-19